



EARTHQUAKE

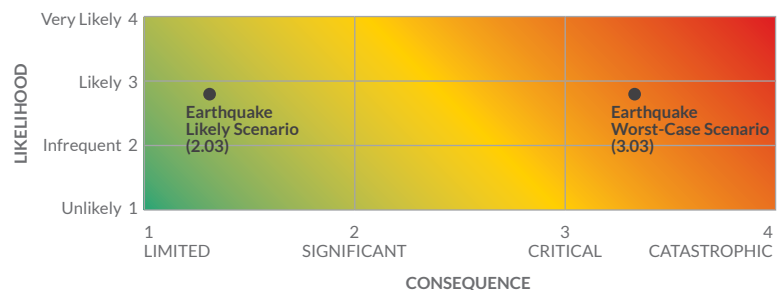


An earthquake is a sudden release of energy from the earth's crust that creates seismic waves. Tectonic plates become stuck, thus putting a strain on the ground. When the strain becomes so great that rocks give way, fault lines occur. At the earth's surface, earthquakes may manifest themselves by a shaking or displacement of the ground.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

Historically, there has been no record of earthquakes with an epicenter in Howard County, except for a cluster of small earthquakes in 1993 in Allview Estates in Columbia, MD. The County has experienced minor shaking from earthquakes located outside of the region, most notably the August 2011 earthquake which had an epicenter in Central Virginia.

RISK MATRIX



WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **1-30% Annual Likelihood** of an earthquake hazard in Howard County. In the most likely earthquake scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Critical-Catastrophic**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The 2011 Mineral, VA earthquake did not cause damage in Howard County, but did cause significant structure damage in nearby jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia.
- In the Atlantic Coastal Plain, it is now thought that earthquakes may be associated with nearly vertical faults that formed during the opening of the present Atlantic Ocean.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- Maryland Geological Survey www.mgs.md.gov/geology/geohazards/earthquakes_and_maryland.html
- Ready.gov ready.gov/earthquakes

LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW

Future Likelihood	Infrequent-Likely 1-30% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited-Significant	Significant-Critical
Risk Score	2.25	2.65
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #8 of 10 natural hazards.	

EARTHQUAKE IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

